

NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN		No. 99-108
TO:	Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, State Meal Program, Meal Supplements for Pregnant or Lactating Students Program, Meal Supplements (Snacks) in the National School Lunch Program, Child Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, Adult Day Care Food Program, County Superintendent of Schools, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools	ISSUE DATE: July 1999
ATTENTION:	Food Service Directors	
FROM:	School Nutrition Programs	
SUBJECT:	Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Guidance Regarding "Public Charge"	

This Management Bulletin disseminates guidance from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Department of Justice, intended to address public concern and to clarify which benefits noncitizens may receive without negative immigration consequences.

The receipt of benefits under the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Programs, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Food Stamps, the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, and other supplementary and emergency food assistance programs, **will not** result in an individual being considered a public charge. Income maintenance programs that will be considered for public charge purposes include Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, general assistance programs for income maintenance purposes, and programs (including Medicaid) supporting aliens who reside in an institution for long-term care.

Participants in child nutrition programs are not required to repay or terminate program benefits in order to adjust their immigration status. If children or family members born in the U.S. participate in child nutrition programs, it will not affect the immigration status of other family members. Also, since there is no public charge test for naturalization, participation in child nutrition programs will not affect an application for naturalization.

Attached for your information is a copy of a fact sheet prepared by INS, along with important questions and answers.

If you have any questions about this Management Bulletin or need further information, please contact the appropriate unit listed below:

School Nutrition Programs Unit	(916) 323-1580
Child Care Food Program Unit	(916) 322-8323
Summer Food Service Program Unit	(916) 327-6465
Adult Day Care Food Program Unit	(916) 445-0850

You may also contact these units by calling (800) 952-5609.

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Marilyn Briggs, Director  
Nutrition Services Division  
Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Kathy B. Lewis  
Deputy Superintendent  
Child, Youth and Family Services Branch

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